

Sunday Worship on August 3, 2025

(CCLI: License Number #3156883) (Welcoming Elder: Dr. Robert Revington)

Sunday Order of Worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Responsive Call to Worship
- Praise song BOP 435 All things bright and beautiful
- Prayer for Worship and the Lord's Prayer
- Words of Assurance
- Praise song BOP 367 Jesus, very thought of thee

We listen

- Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)
- First reading: Luke 12:13-21
- Second reading: Psalm 49:1-12 (Refrain 2)
- Third reading: Colossians 3:1-11
- Sermon: **It's time to change clothes**
- Hymn BOP 637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated
- Prayer for the people

We Respond

- Offering, Doxology (BOP 457 Now thank we all our God) & Dedication
- Song for the Journey BOP 685 How firm a foundation

We Serve

- Benediction
- A Sung Blessing

Responsive Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

God's faithful love endures forever.

Has the Lord redeemed you? Then say so!

God has redeemed us from trouble and leads us on paths of justice and righteousness.

Praise the Lord for God's steadfast love is great!

Let us praise the Lord! Let us worship God.

Praise song – BOP 435 All things bright and beautiful

Prayer of Adoration

God of justice and joy, as we gather to worship, we join your whole creation to offer you honour and praise. We sense your glory in the grandeur of open skies and the expanding horizon. We sense your power of new life in growing gardens and growing children. We trust your gift of new life in Christ, rising in us with courage and compassion.

Your Spirit blows through us like a fresh breeze in the breath of prayer. O God, fill us with a sense of your holiness in this hour to renew us in our love for you and our care for your creation as we worship you as the Creating God, redeeming Son and guiding Holy Spirit.

Prayer of confession (Unison)

God of justice and generosity, we trust that all life flows from your hand, yet we confess we often worry about how much life costs us. We like to have much more than enough, and we hesitate to share. Forgive us when our hearts long for the security of this world, not the security of your love. Amen.

Heavenly Father, hear us, as we offer the Prayer that Jesus taught us: (The Lord's Prayer:)
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Remember the words of Paul: "Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us." Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you. *(Let us bless each other with the peace of the Lord.)*

Praise song – BOP 367 Jesus, the very thought of thee

Sung prayer for illumination (BOP 445 Open our eyes, Lord)

- First reading: Genesis 18:20-32
- Second reading: Psalm 138 (Refrain 1)
- Third reading: Luke 11:1-13

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

Sermon: It's time to change clothes

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to take off the old life and put on the new. Just like changing clothes, this is a deliberate, daily act of transformation.

Let me ask you something. Have you ever held onto a piece of clothing you knew you'd never wear again? Maybe it was the bell-bottom jeans from the 70's, or the bright neon jacket from your college days. Or maybe it's a shirt that shrunk two sizes but you tell yourself, "Someday, I'll fit into it again."

We all do this. We keep things in our closet that no longer fit us whether it's physically or seasonally. Spiritually, we do the same.

In today's passage, Paul uses this great metaphor of clothing to talk about our spiritual transformation. He tells us to take off the old and put on the new. Not just once, but daily, intentionally. It's like getting dressed every morning.

So, here's the big question for you today. Are you still wearing clothes that no longer match who you are in Christ?

Paul writes, V1-2, "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is ... Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,"

I have one friend. He's a teacher. Before every class, he prays to God, setting his heart and mind on Jesus. He says, "I pray because I cannot love them with my own love. Through prayer, I fix my eyes on Jesus Christ. I am more patient, I am more loving, and I am more focused."

That's what Paul is getting at. He's saying, Start your day by dressing your mind with Christ. If you let your mind get dressed in anxiety, fear, or anger, it will shape your whole day.

What do you mentally "wear" every morning? The news? Instagram? Facebook? Fresh morning coffee, or Guilt and busy-ness?

Paul says, Lift your eyes. Set your mind on Christ. That's the first step to changing your spiritual clothes.

Paul reminds us, v3, "for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Think about when you go shopping for new clothes. If you keep wearing the old, torn, stained ones, people might not even believe you've bought anything new. It's like saying, "I'm a new creation!" but living like the same old person.

Years ago, I had my favourite hoodie. I wore it every single day. As time passed, it was ripped and faded. My wife begged me to throw it away. But, I held on because it was my favourite. I loved it. So, I told her, it would be my camping hoodie. I wanted to keep it no matter if I wear it or not. When I went camping last time, I didn't even think about it.

We do this spiritually. We cling to anger, lust, jealousy because they are familiar to us. But Paul says: **THAT PERSON? That's not you anymore! That version of you died. Your life is now hidden in Christ. You've got new clothes!**

Do you still define yourself by your past? Are you trying to live a new life in old garments?

We all need to take off our old clothes. Paul becomes practical. "Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature." "Put to death whatever in you is earthly." He lists sins: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed.

Here's a silly example. Have you ever tried to wear a shirt that clearly didn't fit anymore, but you squeezed into it anyway?

Maybe you looked in the mirror and thought, "NOPE!" and took it right off. That is what Paul wants us to do with sin. It might seem tempting and we might try, but after trying it, we immediately realize that it's not for us.

Think of a person who's bitter all the time. That bitterness becomes like a smelly jacket. Others can sense it. Or someone who can't control their temper. It's like walking around with a flashing red light on their head.

What old clothing, what sin or what attitude, are you still wearing? Paul says to take it off. It doesn't belong to you any more. You are a new person in Christ.

Paul says, **V10, "Have clothed yourself with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its Creator."**

One of my friends adopted a little boy. Before the boy came home, they prepared a new room for their adopted son. Why? They wanted him to feel home. They wanted him to feel like he belonged. He wanted the new boy to feel like part of a new family. New room. New clothes. The boy didn't need to carry his old story any longer. **He had a new identity.**

That's what Paul says about all of us. We belong to a new family now. Our wardrobe has changed. And we are being renewed daily to look more like Christ. We are being renewed into the image of our Creator, the very image God had in mind when He first formed us.

The good news is that everyone is invited. Paul says, **V11, "In that renewal, there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all, and is in all."**

What new character qualities do you want to "wear" this week? Kindness? Patience? Forgiveness?

Sometimes, we've got to clean out the closet. We pull everything out, and We ask, "Do I still need this??"

Spiritually, it's the same. Are you holding onto pride, fear, anger, guilty feeling, low self-esteem questioning our self worth? Is that really who you want to be?

Let's make it simple. It's time to change clothes. We've already been given the new wardrobe. It's hanging right there. God has prepared for us. Full of love, peace, kindness, humility, and joy. All we need to do is put it on. This week, name one piece of old clothing we need to toss out. And name one new garment we are going to wear with Christ's help.

Little by little, let us get used to our new identity.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Praise song – BOP 637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated

Prayer for the people:

Gracious God, thank you for reminding us today that we are new in Christ. Help us to take off the old clothes, our old pride, anger, lust, and fear. Help us to dress ourselves in your love, humility, kindness, mercy, and patience. Let the world see in us a people transformed by grace.

Lord of life, we thank you for calling us into your family, thank you for raising us with Christ, and thank you for clothing us with grace. We bring before you the burdens on our hearts. For those who are sick, may you bring healing. For those who are grieving, may you bring comfort. For those who are struggling financially or emotionally, may you bring provision and peace.

Help us as a church to be clothed in compassion, kindness, and unity. Let our lives reflect the love of Christ in every place you send us this week. Teach us to speak gentleness, to forgive quickly, and to serve joyfully. May we shine your light in a world that so often walks in darkness.

Lord, change us from the inside out. Strip us of all that hinders love, and help us put on the character of Christ each day.

We pray all these things in the powerful name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Invitation to the offering:

God has blessed us with abundant love in Christ and in creation. Let us share this abundance in our offering today so that others may also rejoice in God's goodness.

As we give our offerings, let us glorify him.

(BOP #457, Now thank we all our God Vs. 1)

Offering prayer:

Abundant God, we bring you our gifts in gratitude for your generosity. Bless and multiply these gifts in Jesus' name, so that they can spread your goodness in the world and touch lives of those in need, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Song for the Journey – BOP 685 How firm a foundation

Now, it is our time to be sent to the world where God called us to be.

God called us to restore his own image in us. We have the likeness of God. Our old self may not carry God's image, God's good characters. But, Christ has died on the cross and made us clean. He washed all our sins. He clothed us with his blood and with his good characters such as love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, faithfulness, hope, kindness, joy, peace, generosity, and self-control. Throw away your old self. It is not you any longer. Put on the new 'you' God has prepared for you.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, our Father, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and always. Amen.